

THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 4TH, 1893.

NUMBER 14

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:
79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 4th, 1893.

The situation in Rio Grande the past week has changed much in favor of the federalists, the state forces under a young officer named Santos Filho suffering a disastrous defeat at Alegrete on the 26th at the hands of the united forces of Cols. Laurentino Pina and Prestes Guimarães. The state forces numbered about 1500 men, while the federalists are said to have been superior to that, although no number has been reported. The losses of the former are said to have been over 500. On the 29th also a small force of state troops was defeated at S. Sebastião, and to-day telegrams are received announcing the capture of Quarai, a frontier town west of Livramento. Should this capture prove true, its importance can not be overestimated, for it will give the federalists a vantage point on the frontier and a good centre for operations against Urugayana and the forces under Gen. Hypólito. A lack of artillery and organization may prevent their holding the town, however, against the large and well-organized force under that officer, who is said to have 5,000 men under his command. It is also reported that the forces under Gen. Tavares have reappeared in the vicinity of Livramento, which town is evidently much coveted by that officer. Its advantage is well understood by both parties, as in the hands of the federalists it would soon become the principal base of supplies for an army operating against the government. On the other side, little appears to have been accomplished during the past week. General Hypólito is said to be marching on Alegrete for the purpose of dislodging the federalists. General Telles, having placed his forces so as to protect the railway between Bagé and Pelotas, paid a flying visit to Porto Alegre to confer with General Pego, the district commander, and then hastily returned to Bagé. It is believed that he will at once resume active operations against the forces under Tavares and Saravia, but whether he will again try a "paper chase" over the road to Livramento remains to be seen. In all probability, however, the federalists will soon be driven to accept battle, as the concentration of forces by the government will impede their movements in small detachments, as at present.

If the national congress desires to secure a municipal government for this city worthy of the name, worthy even of the slightest respect, it must at once reconsider the absurd dual organization which it has created, and replace it by a simpler and more responsible system. Either the city should be administered by an elective council and executive, or it should be delivered over wholly to the dictatorial authority of a prefect appointed by the national executive. The latter is clearly an anomaly, however, for in a city where so much care is taken to provide for elective officials and representatives, an official who receives his appointment from the national government and who is practically irresponsible to the city for his acts, is clearly unrepresentative and illogical. From the very outset this system has been productive of dissension and confusion. The prefect and municipal council are openly hostile to each other and have

been engaged principally in defeating each other's measures. The result is that the prefect has undertaken to govern the city dictatorially, and he has made no secret of it. He has done what he pleased with the public funds of the city and with the property of its citizens. Some of his acts have been most necessary and beneficial, and we have had occasion to commend them in these columns notwithstanding the arbitrary power exercised by him in their execution. Then again his conduct has been mischievous to an extreme and most prejudicial to the interests of the city. At the present moment the efforts of the council and prefect are apparently directed to the sole object of thwarting each other's actions. No matter how much the city treasury may suffer, nor how much public interests may be neglected, these two independent powers are able to find nothing better to do than this. No one is ignorant of the fact this city has suffered most severely in the past through sheer misgovernment and corrupt administration. No one is unaware, also, that many improvements are urgently needed, and that no time should be lost in carrying them into execution. The government should therefore put an end to this unseemly and pernicious controversy, and establish a municipal government for Rio de Janeiro which will know how to meet the wishes of the people and to consult their best interests. The office of "prefect," independent of the council, should be promptly abolished, and the duties and limitations of each official should be clearly defined. And beyond all this, every official should be held personally responsible for abuses of authority. This is an essential factor in the future government of this city and country, as the abuses of power which daily occur will never be stopped until the official himself can be summoned before a court and punished for his illegal acts.

CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY.

São Paulo, March 31st, 1893.

To the Editor:

Sir,—Notwithstanding the comments you were pleased to make upon my letter of the 18th inst., I beg to inform you that I not only thoroughly understand the object of your criticism, but must still maintain that the Catholic Church in this country has nothing to do with the immoralities of the people.

You state that if I have followed the daily newspaper records I have seen a very ugly list of assassinations, suicides, seductions, outrages on children, frauds, peculations, thefts, burglaries, etc., all of which I admit, but at the same time can you point out a country in the world where these same crimes are not committed? I do not dispute the statement that the standard of morality all through South America is very low, but I must still maintain that the responsibility does not lie with the Catholic Church. I believe quite so per cent. of the men in this country are only Catholics in name; by this statement I do not mean that the remaining 20 per cent. are all "sinners," but they at least try to practise what they profess.

When you say that the Catholic Church is responsible for the crimes committed in this country, you condemn the good with the bad, the innocent with the guilty. This is hardly fair! No doubt we have here many *bad priests* who are individually responsible for the ignorance, superstition and misguidance of the people under their charge, but there is a great difference between individual responsibility and church responsibility.

Do you think that the people of Brazil would be any better under Protestantism than they are now under Catholicism? I think not.

It is simply a matter of history that all Catholic countries that have become Protestant, have gone from bad to worse. For example let us take Germany. The Rev. Baring Gould writes: "The inevitable result of the laxity of dealing with marriage by the Protestant Church has been a corresponding laxity of morals. Thus throughout Germany the statistics of illegitimacy show a much higher rate among Protestants than among Catholics. (Statistik des Deutsch. Reichs 1876.) For instance:—

	per cent.
Province of Prussia (Prot.), illegitimate births are 9.0	
" Brandenburg (Prot.) "	10.9
" Pomerania (Prot.) "	10.0
" Schleswig-Holstein (Prot.) "	9.6
" Westphalia (Cath.) "	2.7
" Rhineland (Cath.) "	3.0

So also in towns that can be compared as almost exclusively Catholic or Protestant:—

	per cent.
Berlin (Prot.), illegitimate births are...	13.5
Magdeburg (Prot.) "	9.6
Hannover (Prot.) "	8.9
Cöln (Prot.) "	2.7
Aix-la-Chapelle (C.) "	2.2
Trèves (Cath.) "	2.3

In Timbura, where the population is wholly evangelical, the average of illegitimate births in the town is 12.0; in Altenburg 14.5; Coburg 12.3; Hildburghausen 10.5; Weimar 8.8 (Fährbacher für national (Economic u. Statistik 1875).

As regards our own country, King Henry VIII. declared, in his last speech to Parliament: "The Bible itself is turned into wretched rhymes, sung and jangled in every alehouse and tavern. I am sure that clarity was never so faint among ye, virtue never at a lower ebb, and God himself never less honored or worse served in Christendom." (Stow's Annals, and Collier's Ecclesiast. Hist. part ii, book iii, p. 215.)

Again: Bernard Gilpin declares that in Edward VI.'s reign, "More blind superstition, ignorance and infidelity were promulgated in England than ever was under the Bishop of Rome. The realm was in danger of becoming more barbarous than Syria." (Historical Portraits of the Tudor Dynasty, vol. ii, p. 206.)

Bakunin writes to Bullinger in 1862: "Religion is in the same state among us as heretofore. Almost all are covetous, all love gifts, God, Men have broken forth to curse and to lie, and murder, and steal, and commit adultery." (Zürich Letters, Packer Soc. edit. Let. xvi.)

Thanking you again for inserting my last letter and trusting that you will again grant me space for the above,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. J. F. INGRAM.

Our correspondent will permit us to say that if he thoroughly understands the object of our criticism, then there is no need whatever of insisting upon a religious discussion, nor in publishing *ex parte* comparisons between Catholic and Protestant countries. Such comparisons are unsatisfactory and deceptive, and, as the dullest can see, are invariably dishonest. A fair controversy would include the statistics from all countries, but this Mr. Ingram is not disposed to submit, as he favors us with comparisons between the *best* Catholic and the *worst* Protestant exhibits. If we wished to discuss this question, as we certainly do not, we should ask him for his statistical returns from Russia, Austria, Italy, France and Spain, and we should also desire to know something of the conditions of life in each in order to understand the comparison. Comparisons between dissimilar objects and conditions are often most unjust.

As for the statement that it is a "matter of history that all Catholic countries that have become Protestant have gone from bad to worse," we can safely leave that to the consideration of any unprejudiced and well-informed mind. Mr. Ingram's own country, England, will serve as an illustration.

All this, as we have before said, is wholly foreign to our purpose. We have said that the Catholic church is "largely responsible" for the present state of society in Brazil and other South American countries, and we have given our reasons for that opinion. Mr. Ingram admits that the standard of morality in these countries is very low, but he denies that the Catholic church is responsible for it. In that case there is a difference of opinion on a subject which is open to discussion on its own merits.

We have stated that in all these countries, except one, the Catholic church has always been dominant and supreme, in most of them a part of the state itself, the guide and instructor of the people in religion and morals, and even the director of all matters pertaining to secular education. With an authority and control so extensive as this, how is it possible for the church to shirk responsibility for the moral condition of the people? If the standards of morality are very low, whose fault is it? If the people are ignorant and criminal, upon whom rests the responsibility? If the guide and instructor had done his whole duty, would crime be as common as it now is?

Our correspondent should bear in mind that we have not charged the church with full responsibility for all this, for there are many other elements which have contributed to the present condition of South America. Climate, origin, blood mixtures, slavery, weak governments, bad colonial systems, the quest of gold, etc., all these must bear their share. But even here it must be remembered that the church has always been present and has been the confidential adviser of even the worst. The confessor was always at Pizarro's elbow and the church fattened and grew strong upon the wealth won by his murders and robberies.

It is idle to ask if the Protestant would have done better, or to deny the responsibility of the church. The total absence of a moral standard in many of these countries is a fact which stands out clear and strong in the open light of day. The Catholic churchmen know it as well as the Protestant—but what are they doing about it?

Where are the preachers of morals, the consors of open and shameless immorality? What churchman has denounced, either in the press or the pulpit, the enormous wholesale robberies in Argentina and Uruguay, the jobberies and frauds here in 1890 and 1891, the outrages in Rio Grande which have led to a fratricidal war, the murders and oppressions which keep society in a state of terror in Bolivia and Chili, the

cruelties and oppressions on a semi-servile class in Chili, Perú and Ecuador, and the open immoralities of the dominant classes in all of these countries? Mr. Ingram admits that there are many bad priests here, but can he tell us of one who has been punished for his crimes and immoralities? In the town of Catalão, Goyaz, there was a priest a few years ago who was reported to be the father of 44 children. Was he ever censured for it? In Ubatuba some years ago a priest forced his daughter by one mistress to marry his son by another mistress, and the people were so scandalized by it that they compelled a separation of the pair. Was the crime ever punished? And yet these are the examples which the people have had set for them, and this is the instruction upon which their present "very low standard of morality" is based! Again we ask, who is responsible for this? Where are the teachers whose precept and example should have led an ignorant and self-indulgent people into purer and better paths? That there are good priests and earnest communicants we gladly admit, but until they can establish a record for honest, persistent and courageous labor against these evils they must bear the burden of responsibility with the others.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The boundary treaty between Chili and Argentina has at last been definitely settled.

—In Buenos Aires in the month of February there were 1,794 births, 929 deaths and 351 marriages.

—The Buenos Aires port doctors are still discovering "suspected" cases to justify their impositions.

—A Buenos Aires telegram reports that the sugar-cane crop, which has suffered heavily from drought, will give an inferior yield.

—Señorita Elisa Balmaceda, daughter of the late Chilean dictator, was married in Buenos Aires on the 18th ult. to Dr. Emilio Bello Coleado.

—Revolutionary reports are still current in Buenos Aires. They have become so common, however, that no one takes any notice of them.

—Comodoro Howard reports that the new Argentine cruiser *9 de Julio* steamed in her trial trip for 6 hours at an average of 21.98 knots an hour.

—On the night of the 1st inst. the church of San Domingo de la Virgen Nuestra Señora de Lourdes at Buenos Aires, was robbed of jewels and other valuables.

—A telegram of the 28th ult. from Montevideo mentions the arrival of three persons in that city with the alleged purpose of assassinating ex-Senator Silveira Martins.

—There were 570 births, 74 marriages and 306 deaths in Montevideo in February. The estimated population was 222,281. The passenger and immigrant arrivals numbered 4,797 and the departures 5,789, a loss of 992.

—The drought is again being felt almost all over the country to an alarming extent, and unless we have rain shortly extensive losses will experience very heavy losses amongst their stock. The camps in many places are quite bare, and the cattle are having to be moved to where there is grass to be had.—*Sport and Pastime.*

—The *Times* of Argentina says that many Indian women and girls carried to Buenos Aires by Gen. Roca, after the extermination of the Indian tribes in 1889, are living a life of practical slavery. The women, says the *Times*, have never received wages and, while they are in the hands of their present owners, never will.

—The law demoralizing Brazilian silver went into effect in Uruguay on the 29th ult. It is to be inferred from this that the new Uruguayan coins have been received from Chili. It is anticipated that the depreciation on Brazilian silver will amount to fully 50 per cent., which, in view of the enormous quantity circulating in that country, means a very serious loss.

—In the Argentine republic the Supreme Court of Justice has given judgment in the suit brought by the colonists of Santa Fé against the government of that province to restrain the levying of the tax on grain. The court has decided that the tax is not in opposition to the national constitution, on the ground that the grain is grown in that province, which has power to tax its own products.

—The Paraguayan government has signed a contract with Mr. Walker, the representative here of the New Australian Co-operative Land and Farming Society, for a hundred leagues of land in Paraguay. Our readers already know the object of the society, which intends bringing over from Australia as many as 6,000 settlers. We hope that the Australians will have better fortune in Paraguay than that experienced by other Englishmen and Europeans who have already settled there.—*Sport and Pastime, Buenos Aires.*

—From the report of the Sanseine Frozen Meat Company we hear that during the eighteen months the company has been working it has exported to England, France and Rio de Janeiro, 651,320 sheep and 4,331 head of cattle. The exportation of frozen meat to England is giving splendid results. That to France, however, on account of the heavy protection taxes levied by the government of that country, is doing so badly as to necessitate its abandonment. A recent experiment has served to prove that Brazil will soon become an excellent market for frozen meat of all kinds.—*Sport and Pastime.*

—Indian inroads into Santa Fé colonies have again taken place recently. Every attempt to catch them, however, has failed.

—According to a telegram from La Paz, Bolivia, on the 31st ult., a savage riot had occurred in that city on the occasion of a masonic funeral. The members of a Roman Catholic organization provoked a conflict, which resulted eventually in the burning of the masonic temple. Several persons were killed and wounded.

—Denunciations of gambling-hells and roulette dens still occupy our newspapers, but not the police to whom they are addressed. It is said that one, or more, of them is run by prominent military men, which perhaps may account for the inaction of the police. In the Centro, it is said, a roulette den is open day and night. The *Siglo* mentions four more in the centre of the city, one frequented by youths. The other night a stabling case occurred in one of them, which was carefully hushed up by the police, lest they should have been obliged to close the place for very shame. —*Montevideo Times*.

—"Perhaps it is not generally known," says the *Buenos Aires Herald*, "that when Mr. Hanna was United States minister here he negotiated an extradition treaty with the Argentine government, which was duly signed and sent to Washington. This handsome work seems to have been undertaken by Mr. Hanna without waiting for definite instructions from Washington and when the treaty reached the latter government it was ignored as inadmissible and dropped, but through some inadvertence the fact was not duly communicated to the Argentine government, so that in order to resume further negotiations this matter will require, very properly, notice and explanation."

—A correspondent in Cañal de Gomez writes that on Friday last one might have seen an army in the station yard, intent on collecting the wheat tax, a soldier! This animal was of a mahogany color, dressed in a snuff-colored lillocky, with a black band, a red and white dirty handkerchief round his neck, a blouse such as the peons wear, which had once been blue, a rag round his waist, to which an apology for a sword was attached, an old pair of trousers, of which it is an impossibility to describe the color, and well-worn algaratas. Drinking all day instead of doing a soldier's duty, or rather collecting duty, by 4 o'clock in the afternoon he was just as drunk as an Argentine soldier, or any other soldier, could be. To avoid giving offence to those from whom he had to collect, he went peacefully to sleep under a tree close to the gate of the station yard. Some ways took advantage of his alcoholic slumbers to denude him of hat and sword, and hang them on the tree above him. The poor fellow continued to watch the carts arriving with eyes closed as close as drink and sleep could keep them. —*Sport and Pastime*, Buenos Aires, March 22.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—In February the gas company at Pará was fined 1,268\$300.

—In the quarter ending March 31st there emigrated from Ceará 3,374 persons.

—Reports of a revolution in Santa Catharina were circulated here on Saturday.

—The Italian cruiser *Dagali* has been lying in the port of Pernambuco since the 21st ult.

—The governor of Pernambuco has vetoed the bill passed by the legislature on impeachment.

—In the Hospicio dos Lazartos at Pará there are 86 lepers, of whom 53 are males and 33 females.

—Captain João Pereira Leite has been appointed to command the Brazilian flotilla on the Amazon.

—In Pernambuco the chamber of deputies annulled the election of Dr. José Maria de Albuquerque Melo.

—It is now said that Gen. Hyppolito, who returned to Urugayana only a few days ago, is marching on Alegrete.

—To-day's telegrams from the south announce the reappearance of Gen. Tavares' forces in the neighborhood of Livramento.

—The Brazilian commission sent to Ceará to observe the total eclipse of the sun on the 16th inst., arrived at Fortaleza on the 2nd.

—The *Pharol*, of Juiz de Fora, that the Metropolitan company has secured a loan for the introduction of 500 Chinese laborers.

—The *Pais* on Saturday published the report that Barão do Rio Apa, adjutant-general of the army, would be sent to Rio Grande do Sul.

—The Paranaense paper factory has ordered machinery from the United States. This machinery, it is expected, will reach Pará next month.

—Telegrams received here on Friday confirm the report of the defeat of the Castilistas at Alegrete with a loss of 500 men killed and wounded.

—In the city of Pará there were registered in February 145 births and 206 deaths against 144 births and 192 deaths in the corresponding month of 1892.

—The state government of Pará has given instructions for translating into English a work describing that state. The translation will be printed and sent to the Chicago exhibition.

—It is stated that the 1st and 7th battalions of infantry, now forming part of the garrison of this city, will be sent to Rio Grande do Sul and that the 32nd battalion will be brought from Victoria to this city.

—Telegrams received here last Thursday stated that 1,500 Castilistas sent to retake Alegrete had been defeated with heavy losses, that Gen. Tavares had captured Bagé, that Pina was marching towards Livramento with 3,500 men, and that Gen. Silva Telles had gone to Porto Alegre to await the arrival of troops from Rio de Janeiro.

—According to a telegram of the 31st ult., the garrison of Bagé had withdrawn from that place and taken up a position for defending the railway to Pelotas.

—The custom-house laborers at Santos held a meeting on the 3rd inst. to ask for more pay. A commission was appointed to present their petition to the minister of finance.

—The number of deaths registered in S. Paulo in the month of February was 429, of which 249 were of Brazilians, 117 of Italians, 30 of Portuguese, 5 of Germans and 31 of persons of other nationalities.

—A congressional election was held in Amazonas on the 20th ult., and the official candidates Filoto Pires, Gabriel Salgado and Lima Bacury were elected. The opposition refrained from going to the polls.

—Telegrams from Montevideo and Rivera to-day announce the capture of Quaraí by the federalists. This is a frontier town farther inland than Livramento, and possesses considerable strategic importance.

—The Belgian consul, Mr. Jules Doneaux, was assaulted in Santos on the 3rd inst. by eight employees of the Vição Paulista company. These repeated assaults are said to be due to a scarcity of policemen.

—A Porto Alegre telegram of the 31st ult., states that Gen. Telles had arrived with troops for the purpose of operating in the northern part of the state. Another telegram of the 2nd inst. says he has returned to Bagé.

—The officers of the 25th battalion, which is stationed at Desterro, have sent a very warm and energetic response to the appeal made by the Rio de Janeiro Military Club to the army to act in unison in maintaining harmony among all branches of the service.

—The state of Amazonas has sent 600 packages containing 1,087 exhibits to the Chicago exhibition, not counting duplicates of 500 kinds of timber. It is said that 400 additional articles will shortly be sent. The state will be represented by two commissioners.

—The Bishop of S. Paulo has addressed a circular to the parish priests of his diocese authorizing them to perform the religious marriage ceremony without waiting for the performance of the civil ceremony. He says that the constitution has annulled Art. 284 of the criminal code.

—In the vicinity of Livramento there was, according to a Montevideo telegram of the 31st ult., a battle of 400 federalists against 100 reinforcements. It is stated, however, that Gen. Hyppolito is in a position to prevent reinforcements from reaching them, but the reporter was evidently not up in his geography.

—A man named Francisco Lambert Gustavo has recently been arrested in São Paulo for having forged the signature of the Belgian vice-consul in that city. The signature was attached to a letter written in bad French requesting Dr. Carlos Garcia to furnish the money requisite to pay the passage to Europe of the criminal, his wife and children.

—On Sunday at a meeting held in Niteroi resolutions were passed for deposing the municipal chamber of that city. In these resolutions the chamber is accused of incorrect and undemocratic behavior, of squandering municipal moneys, of unnecessarily increasing the number of municipal officers, of neglecting the interests of the municipality, of depriving citizens of the right of suffrage and of many other misdemeanors therein specified. It is consequently asked to resign and to deliver the municipal government to a committee elected at the meeting.

—A Montevideo telegram of this morning says that a report has been received of another federalist victory in Rio Grande, which lacks confirmation. The latest advice of the battle at Alegrete states that the Castilistas fought under unfavorable conditions from midday until 5 o'clock on the 26th, that their commander 2nd-Lieut. Santos Filho was wounded and made prisoner, that the federalist leader Pina being wounded the command of their united forces had been assumed by Prestes Guimarães. It was said that the federalists are marching upon S. Gabriel.

—Telegrams from Rivera on the 3rd state that General Tavares was at Poncho Verde on the 30th ult. On the 29th the federalist 1st-Lieut. Col. Torquato Severo routed a Castilista force of 300 men at S. Sebastião, killing one of its chiefs and 20 men. The defeated detachment belonged to the force under the command of the partisan Castilista chief Colonel Portugal. Further advices from Alegrete state that the federalist losses were 20 killed and 30 wounded, among the latter being Colonel Pina. The Castilistas lost 200 killed, many wounded, 134 Comblan carbines, 12,000 cartridges, 500 lances and many prisoners.

—The following important message was received from Montevideo on March 31st: "The defeat of the Castilistas under Santos Filho is confirmed. He was wounded. The Castilistas lost upwards of 500. The greater part of the deaths resulted from the rout, the fugitives being drowned in the river. Wounded and fugitives are arriving at Caçiquy. The victorious forces were commanded by Laurentino Pina. The columns commanded by General Silva Tavares and Col. Gumerindo Saravia left Yaguarambosinho to-day for Caçiquy by way of Lavras. The 1st-Lieut. Maciel is at S. Luiz with an armed force of 400 federalists stationed near Livramento, awaiting reinforcements. But it will be difficult for the Tavares or Gumerindo federalists to reach Maciel, because General Hyppolito is ready to cut them off. The federalists state that Gen. Hyppolito is the only general they respect. The troops at União, under Gen. Silva Telles, have left Bagé to take up a position and defend the railroad between that city and Pelotas. He awaits news of the movement of the garrison at Urugayana. At Rivera and Livramento the federalists and the Castilistas are exchanging insulting bulletins."

—The situation in Pernambuco is again becoming critical. The state legislature has declared illegal the municipal councils created by the governor and orders the restoration of the dispossessed councils, but the governor declines to accede. The legislature has now passed an act providing a procedure for the impeachment of the governor, but the said official has promptly vetoed it. The prospect now is that the act will be passed over his veto, and then the struggle begins. The governor has armed a large police force, using the public funds for that purpose, and he has the municipal councils on his side. The legislature, however, has the national authorities and the military force on its side. There is a bare possibility that it will be another struggle like that of Rio Grande.

COFFEE NOTES

—Many of our readers will feel interested in learning that the contract for furnishing roasted coffee to the World's Fair, requiring 700,000 pounds, has been awarded to Chase & Sanborn, of Montreal.

—According to published figures the shipments of coffee at the Docas D. Pedro II. in March were 281,027 bags for foreign and 228 bags for coast ports. The coffee was produced by the following states:

Rio de Janeiro.....	136,511
Minas Geraes.....	105,512
S. Paulo.....	29,139
Espirito Santo.....	10,693
	281,855

RAILROAD NOTES

—A São Paulo telegram dated the 29th ult. reports that another section of the steam tram line in that city has been opened.

—A station is to be erected between S. José and Caçiquy, S. Paulo, on the S. Paulo branch of the Central railway, which will be called Egenio de Mello.

—Gen. Mello Rego has been appointed to examine into and report upon the position of the government railways, in order that a project may be submitted to Congress tending to their alienation.

—A collision occurred on the Carangola line, on the 29th ult., between a passenger train and a freight train, both being much damaged. A brakeman had his legs crushed, which caused his death.

—From April 1st Article 70 of the regulations of the Central railway will take effect. Under this article *encomenda* parcels will be admitted weighing up to 100 kilos, and measuring one cubic metre.

—The Southern Brazilian and Rio Grande Railway company has received permission to appropriate Praça Silveira Martins in the city of Rio Grande do Sul, for use as the maritime terminus of that line.

—An accident occurred on the Mogyana line, between Conquista and Jaguara, on the 29th ult., the train jumping the track and several wagons being overturned. A brakeman and assistant were badly injured, and 13 cattle were killed which were being transported to Jaguara.

—The complaint of the citizens of Tanhaú that the Central railway director had forbidden the re-exportation of anything from that station, has at last been arranged, the order being withdrawn. Under this absurd regulation it was impossible to reship merchandise of any character, and it was impossible for a family to even move its furniture from the place by railway. No wonder the state lines are going to ruin, when such regulations are possible!

—Among the passenger arrivals by the Royal Mail steamer *Mayday*, we note that of Mr. Daniel M. Fox, formerly superintendent of the English line in São Paulo. We understand that Mr. Fox comes out as the São Paulo company's representative to see whether an arrangement can be made with the government for the enlargement of that line. The minister ought now to be satisfied that there is no other practical solution of the problem as how to relieve the port of Santos.

—The holiday visitors to Nova Friburgo who came down on Sunday last, had an experience which will not prejudice them in favor of the Leopoldina company. They first began by waiting two hours for the train, which had been delayed just before reaching Nova Friburgo. Then they had another delay at Cachoeira because the station agent there had not been advised of an unusual number of passengers. Near Porto das Caixas steam gave out and long I went another half-hour. Then at the Prainha there was another half-hour's delay, with bad language, because of rough water on the bay.

—The minister of industry has recently addressed a circular to the directors and managers of the works in connection with railroad extension which contains the following:—"In order to comply with the request of the parliamentary commission on traffic I have to beg you promptly to supply this ministry with the following information, as also with all in your possession connected therewith: 1. Exact particulars as to the region traversed by your road, with a clear description of the termini, and the route it is bound to follow; 2. A clear definition of the zone traversed by the railroad, and the localities and towns which the railroad should benefit, with explanations and descriptions of the elements of production in each of those sections, their population, their present wealth, and their possible development; 3. Information respecting the navigation, importance, volume of water, floods, divisions, and the confluents of the rivers which are connected with the railroad line or crossed by it; 4. Information respecting the traffic now conducted in the region or along the line of the railroad; 5. An approximate estimate of the work to be effected on that line of railroad, together with particulars respecting the rolling stock which will be required; 6. An estimate of the probable clear receipts."

THE GREAT NORTHERN'S CASE.

A deputation of bankers, merchants and others interested in the Great Northern Railway, called at the Foreign Office, London, on February 16th, as previously announced by cable, to urge the intervention of Her Majesty's government to forward the claims of that company for compensation from Brazil. The case presented will be seen from the following report published in the *Financial News*:

The deputation was introduced by Mr. R. B. Martin, M. P., who said: Sir, I have the honour, this afternoon, to present to you a petition from merchants, bankers, and others interested in the shares of the Great Northern Railway Brazil, Limited, and to beg of you to permit that company to lay before you particulars of a claim for compensation, so that if, after an examination into the justice of the claim, you think fit to do so, you will be able to give such instructions to Her Majesty's representative at Rio de Janeiro as will ensure the protection of British interests. In asking Mr. Wanklyn to lay before you the particulars of the case, I wish to state we have not presumed to ask the intervention of the Foreign Office until we have exhausted all expedients within the constitution of Brazil.

Mr. J. L. Wanklyn then said: Sir, I am deputed by the Great Northern Railway Brazil, Limited, and it is my privilege this afternoon, to present to you a short statement in writing of the grounds on which the company claim compensation from the government of the United States of Brazil. With your permission I will present to you at the same time, for your convenience, printed copies of the documents substantiating this claim, with a map attached. In March, 1881, under the empire, the province of Pernambuco advertised for tenders for the construction of certain railways. I finally the tenders of two British subjects were accepted. Others who had sent in tenders petitioned against the acceptance of the above tenders, first to the provincial government, and second, to the imperial government; but the imperial government again and again declared that it had not the power, and must decline to interfere in the affairs of the province; and thereupon the president of the province signed contracts, the contracts being stamped "al valorem," legalised in due form, and subsequently ratified by the imperial government itself. Upon the strength of these contracts, the Great Northern Railway Brazil, Limited, in the years 1883-84 made large expenditures and incurred heavy liabilities in the purchase of the concessions, the surveys of the lines, the organization of the company, in engineering staff and office expenses, both in Pernambuco and London, in legal expenditure in Pernambuco, Rio, and London, and in paying the stamp duties in England and Brazil; and it will scarcely be believed that, although these contracts were being carried out with the knowledge and approval of the imperial government, and notwithstanding their repeated declarations that they could not interfere in the affairs of the province, and in opposition to the advice of the head officials of the ministry of public works, and against the opinion of the council of state—it will scarcely be believed, I say, that, in the face of these facts, the imperial government was at last prevailed upon by one of the original competitors to interfere, and an interim minister (who held office for about a fortnight) did so, granting under the plea of state interests, a national concession, which invaded the zone of the provincial concessions, and completely nullified their value. Under the constitution of Brazil, sir, the imperial government could not for purposes of state, without process of expropriation, override the rights of property; but in this case—one without process in the country—they did, without notice or process of law, abuse their power, and by acts of the most arbitrary character take away the rights of property legitimately acquired in public competition. The Great Northern company protested, in the most complete way, against this abuse of power; they have continued their protests and are protesting up to to-day. The company have employed continuously two lawyers of great eminence in Brazil, one since dead, paying them special fees, and have retained an agent in Pernambuco, Mr. William Hughes, for many years British vice-consul there. The government of Brazil for the past few years has been in an unsettled state; changes of ministry have been frequent, and no general line of policy has been adopted, one minister frequently undoing the acts of his predecessor, to the prejudice of private interests. It has been found impossible to get any minister to give his attention to this business, as no one has cared to assume the responsibility of settling this claim, and not only as regards this claim, but in other matters, it will be found that the government has sheltered itself under a policy of procrastination. Understand, sir, I do not suggest for one moment that the Brazilian government contemplate eventual repudiation of their obligations. I believe the citizens of the United States of Brazil to be truly jealous of the honor of their country. In conclusion, sir, ten years in the life of a nation may not be a long period, and so our claim has failed to gain attention; but ten years in the life of an individual is a long period, and what is set off as irretrievable injury may be done to the interests of private persons who, in incurring heavy expenditures, placed implicit reliance in the decrees and good faith of the government. One of our advocates at Rio—a man of the highest eminence—is dead. Time passes on, and to-day, sir, after the efflux of ten years, having exhausted every expedient, we beg your interference on our behalf to secure a settlement of our claim without further delay.

Sir Edward Grey, in reply, promised the deputation that the matter should be laid before the English Minister at Rio de Janeiro, who would be asked to investigate it.

The captain and crew of the Russian bark *Andezha* were landed here on the 1st. The bark was in ballast, from Santos for Bahia, and was abandoned and sunk on the 30th ult., about 130 miles south-east of Rio. The captain and crew took to the boats and, after 59 hours afloat, were picked up by a tug and brought here.

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1893

Date	Steamer	Destination
April 6	Taman...	Bahia, Pernambuco, Las Palmas, S. Vi- cent, Lisbon, Vigo, Southampton and Antwerp.
" 14	Trent...	Montevideo and Buenos Aires.
" 18	Magdalena	Southampton and Antwerp calling Ba- hia, Maceio, Pernambuco, Lisbon and Vigo

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